

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) Process for the production of synthesis gas by catalytic steam reforming of a hydrocarbon containing feedstock in parallel in an autothermal steam reformer and in ~~one or more~~ a plurality of steam reformers in series, the heat for the steam reforming reactions in the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers being provided by indirect heat exchange with the combined effluents from the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers with the autothermal steam reformer, and wherein carbon monoxide containing gas is added to the feedstock prior to the steam reforming in the autothermal steam reformer and/or prior to the steam reforming in the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers, the carbon monoxide containing gas having a molar ratio of hydrogen to carbon of less than 4.5 and being added in an amount resulting in a product stream having a molar ratio of hydrogen to carbon monoxide of between about 1.8 and 2.3.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers are adiabatic steam reformers and/or heat exchange steam reformers.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 2, wherein the feedstock to the ~~one or more~~ plurality of adiabatic steam reformers is preheated by indirect heat exchange with the combined effluents from the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers and the autothermal steam reformer.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 2, wherein the heat for the heat exchange reformer is provided by indirect heat exchange with the combined effluents from the ~~one or more~~ plurality of steam reformers and the autothermal steam reformer.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein catalyst in at least one of the steam reformers is in form of pellets or catalysed hardware.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 5, wherein the catalysed hardware is arranged on structured metallic or ceramic elements or on monoliths.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the active catalytic material in a first of the steam reformers is nickel and the active material in a last of the steam reformers is a noble metal or a mixture of noble metals.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 3, wherein the preheating is combined with catalytic steam reforming between at least one of the adiabatic steam reformers.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein an oxidant to the autothermal steam reformer contains at least 90% oxygen by volume.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the carbon monoxide containing gas is tail gas from a Fischer-Tropsch process.